



Solid Plank Installation & Maintenance Guidelines

Assessment, modification and maintenance of site conditions is the most important prerequisite to the successful installation and performance of wide plank wood flooring. Solid wood flooring installation should be avoided anywhere outside moisture penetration is possible. Therefore, any areas below the natural grade of the property or where rain can intrude are unacceptable candidates for a solid wood floor. Given only those limitations, a solid wood floor can be successfully installed anywhere else and enjoyed for the lifetime of your home, and the following guidelines should be followed.

- 1) The installation of solid wood flooring should be postponed until all moisture producing trades (masonry, drywall, plaster, etc.) are complete and their work is thoroughly dry; the roof, windows and exterior doors are installed tight and dry and the mechanical systems (heat or A/C depending on the season) have been operating for a minimum of 2 weeks.
- 2) The flooring should arrive between 6-8% plus or minus 1% moisture content. When you receive your flooring, we suggest that you let the wood acclimate to the moisture in your home for 10-14 days before installation begins. Longer periods are required for dryer areas. Atmospheric conditions cause all wood to expand and contract to a certain degree. It is also critical that your sub-flooring be quite dry before installation. The point of acclimating wood flooring before installing it is to allow the moisture content of the wood to “**normal living conditions**” at the site. To minimize movement, relative humidity should be maintained at 40-55% year around and acclimation procedures should be followed.
- 3) Natural color variation in Logs End Pine flooring enhances their beauty. Each plank will be unique in color. Prior to installation check all flooring and **DO NOT** install an unacceptable or damaged plank.
- 4) Underlayment should be a minimum 5/8” thick plywood glued and securely fastened to wood framing or glued or shot to a thoroughly dry concrete slab, 15 pound or rosin paper may be used as an installation aid, but neither can be considered an effective vapor barrier.
- 5) Solid wood flooring is best installed before interior trim or cabinetry is installed, and prior to the application of finish wall paint. This allows the trim to be fitted tight and cabinetry to be scribed to the floor resulting in a neater overall job.
- 6) Begin by striking a line parallel to (usually) the longest outside wall, the distance away from that wall equal to the width of the chosen starter row including the tongue plus 1/2”. Align the edge of the tongue with your marked line and face nail the groove side of the boards 1” in from the edge. Once all boards are securely

face nailed, proceed to blind nail the tongue side, using an appropriate length cleat every 6-10”.

- 7) Tap the next row’s groove over the tongue (using a block on pine and a rubber mallet on hardwoods) and again, blind nail through the tongue. Continue likewise across the room until you approach the opposite wall. Begin face nailing when you are no longer able to employ the nailing machine. If necessary, rip the final boards to leave ½” gap adjacent to the wall. Allow a minimum ¼” gap around vertical obstructions as well.
- 8) After all trim and cabinetry is installed and painted, and all other “messy” trades are done, the floor can be sanded and finished to your liking.
- 9) Maintain by protecting the floor from damage by utilizing felt protectors on all furniture legs, vacuuming regularly and wiping up spills promptly.